

# Mental Health and Disability Services

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Purpose	<p>The MHDS Division develops and manages Iowa's mental health and disability service system in Iowa. The goal is to ensure quality services that promote the opportunity for Iowans with disabilities to live, learn, work, and recreate in the communities of their choice.</p>
Who	<p>The public system of mental health and disabilities services in Iowa provides a safety net for the uninsured or those who do not have commercial health insurance benefits coverage to meet their needs. About 54,000 Iowans received county-managed mental health or disability services in SFY2010. SFY2011 data is expected to be comparable.</p>
What	<p>Mental health services are provided by a wide range of local service agencies, including community mental health centers, mental health and disability service providers, and state facilities such as mental health institutes and resource centers for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Bureau of Community Services and Planning accredits mental health and disability service providers.</p> <p><u>The MHDS division administers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The State Payment Program that provides service funding annually for about 5,500 people who do not have "legal settlement" in any county.</li><li>▪ MHDD community services fund, property tax relief, allowed growth, and other state and federal funds to assist in providing service for eligible people. Counties individually establish eligibility criteria for services within state-mandated minimum requirements. Plans are approved by the MHDS division.</li><li>▪ Preparation of the state Olmstead Plan that expands rights and choices to people with mental retardation. <a href="http://iowamhdsplan.org/">http://iowamhdsplan.org/</a></li><li>▪ Systems of Care programs to provide community-based services to children and youth with serious emotional disturbances, and their families. There are two programs, an 11-county program in northeast Iowa serving 1,567 children in SFY2011, and a newer Polk and Warren project in central Iowa serving 120.</li><li>▪ Disaster Behavioral Health Response Teams providing behavioral health support to communities affected by natural disasters and/or critical incidents</li><li>▪ The Federal Community Mental Health Block Grant. The grant supports transformation of the mental health system through promotion of evidence based and best practices for delivery of mental health services in community settings.</li><li>▪ Mental Health First Aid programs that provide mental health education and crisis response training to the public through a 12-hour course.</li></ul>
How are we doing?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ In SFY11, 99 percent of children in the northeast Iowa System of Care program were served locally and not moved to restrictive or out-of-state facilities. For the Polk-Warren program, the success was 89 percent.</li><li>▪ The MHDS division is managing numerous workgroups assigned to restructure the delivery of mental health services, and to establish a new set of core services to be available regardless of where the person lives.</li></ul>